

Introduction to the Philosophy of Human Person

Quarter 1 – Module 2: Doing Philosophy

Lesson

2

**The Value of Doing
Philosophy: Leading to a
Broad perspective on life**

To realize the value of doing philosophy in obtaining a broad perspective on life, let's try to understand the Three Disciplines in Philosophy based on the Philosophical Enterprise World of Philosophizing. John Kavanaugh narrates these three disciplines in philosophy as:

1. Discipline of Questioning

Like the Pre-Socratic philosophers, particularly the Milesians and other Greek thinkers, we can also obtain a broad perspective on life once we start to have an attitude of awe and wonder about the things that we observe around us. When Thales started to investigate on the composition of things and concluded that everything was water, other thinkers also begun to ask. Eventually, philosophy came into existence. Kavanaugh stated that the act of questioning, of wanting to know, is the initiation of philosophy. Furthermore, when we ask the questions: “Why am I here?” and “Who am I?”, which means that we are in search for the meaning of our existence, and purposively wanting to understand our identity, then we are engaged into an act of philosophizing. Hence, the statement that philosophy is only for philosophers is denied and we affirmed that we are also philosophers the moment we ask philosophical questions.

A philosophical question does not have a definite or ready answer. It is a kind of question that endures. And it makes sense of our experiences.

2. Discipline of Liberation

Based on the video that you have just watched, the first thing that make people not very wise is “we don’t ask big questions”. Kavanaugh, in explaining discipline of liberation, stated that (by act of philosophizing) we are liberated from the chains of unquestioning acceptance of whatever is at hand, and eventually we began to resist the currents which pull us toward thoughtless conformity. Furthermore, it was stated that to philosophize means to view life in diversity rather than conformity.

Now that fake news are rampant particularly in the social media platforms, act of philosophizing can liberate us, especially the students, from ignorance and conformity, and as Kavanaugh put it, thereby encouraging us to live a more meaningful life.

3. Discipline of Personhood

From the etymology of the word philosophy, i.e., two Greek words Philo which means love and Sophia which means wisdom, we can easily understand philosophy as a love of wisdom, and therefore, a philosopher as a lover of wisdom. As a lover of wisdom, a philosopher must always search the truth and eventually the value of wisdom. Kavanaugh argued that If I am to be a philosopher then it is I who must philosophize. Act of philosophizing is something that is connected with one’s personhood. As Kavanaugh put it: “If we look at ourselves or listen to the testimony of other men, we can see that the human person is driven by his very personhood, to know and to do something about himself.